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L I N C O L N : A W O R L D L I G H T

by
Riley R. Ross

Of the many students of the life of Abraham Lincoln, and his influence upon American history, none is better known throughout the country than Mr. Riley R. Ross of New York. His famous lecture, "A Business Man's Estimate of Lincoln," has been given from coast to coast, in schools and colleges and before representative audiences everywhere. Mr. Ross' study of Lincoln has embraced every available source of information upon Lincoln's life—in fact, the work has for many years been a labor of love with Mr. Ross. He first began to collect Lincoln data in connection with his work in the publishing house of Dodd, Mead & Company, New York; and in pursuing this research he has become one of the country's best-informed students of the life of Lincoln.

REPUTATION is often the result of a single act and but the passing approval of one's fellows. Character is a growth, slow, steady, and has the approval of both God and man.

Too often we measure a man by his contemporaries. The nineteenth century was prolific with great characters. Queen Victoria ruled England; Kaiser William, Germany; Victor Emanuel, Italy; Alexander II, Russia. In this century lived Gladstone, Bismarck, Garibaldi, Cavour, Metternich—the world's greatest statesmen and diplomats; Hugo, Tennyson, Carlisle, Poe and Dickens, great writers; Webster, Clay, Calhoun, orators; Von Moltke and Napoleon, great military leaders.

In this century there looms up a man greater than the greatest of these rulers, statesmen, diplomats, writers, orators and military men, a man who was the noblest benefactor of his country, the most renowned character of his century, the real product of this American soil—the first American—Abraham Lincoln.

He was born the 12th of February, 1809, in Hardin County (now Larue County), Kentucky.

His parents were known as "poor whites," which signified at that time that they were even poorer than the negro slave, because the poor white man, with no capital but his labor, was unable to sell it in competition with the free labor

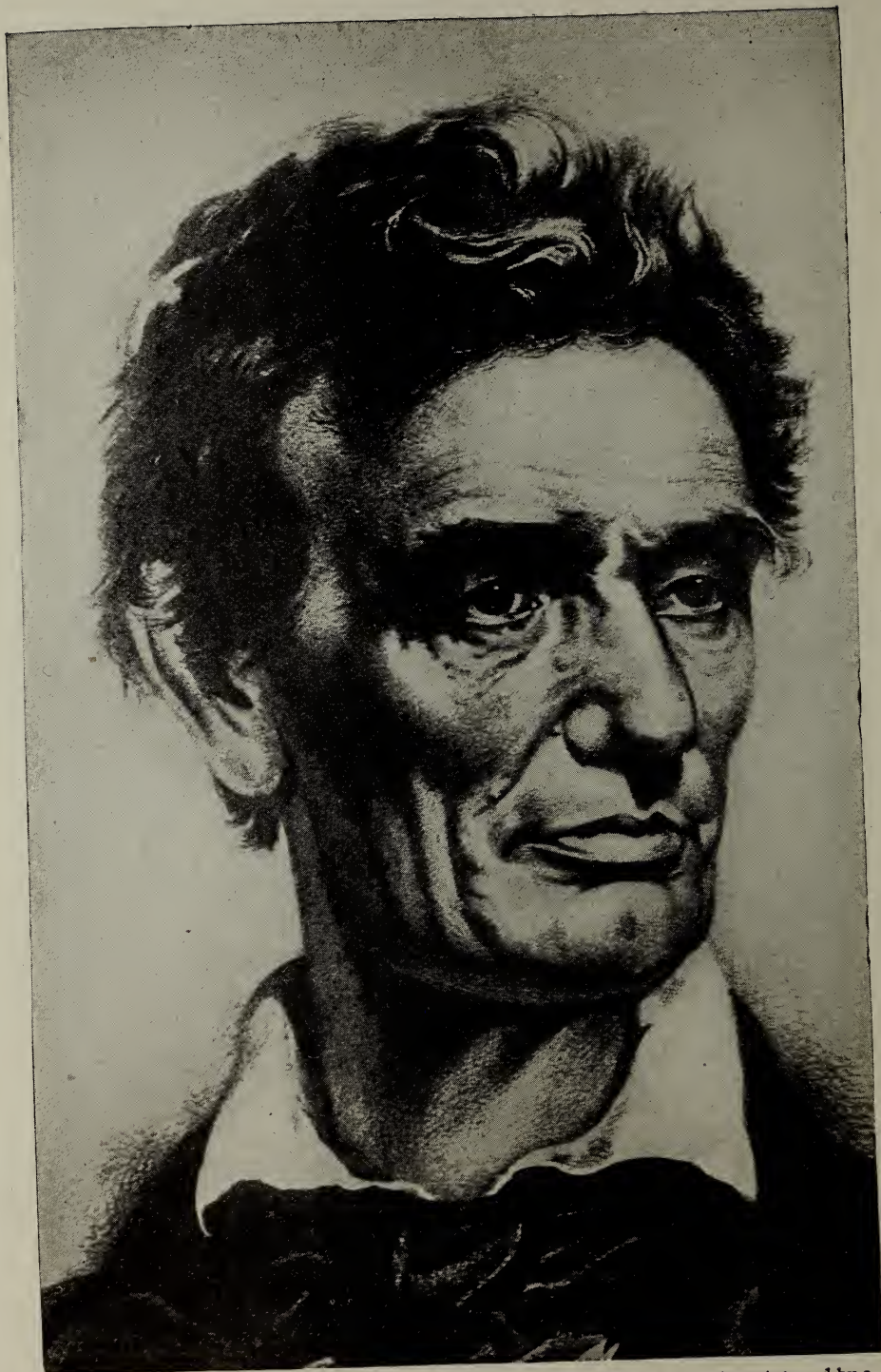
of the slave. Doubtless, in part at least, due to this condition, Abraham Lincoln's father disposed of his farm in the autumn of 1816, and moved to Indiana.

HIS HOME LIFE

The house in which the Lincoln family lived was what was known as a half-faced camp.

That is, it was closed on three sides to protect the inmates against the weather; no floor, the flat side of a split log, resting on four posts, as a table, three-legged stools as chairs, pins driven into logs at the corner as a ladder by which Abraham ascended to an attic, where was his bed of leaves. The bedstead downstairs was simply made by sticks driven between the logs at the corner, the inside angle being supported by a forked stick driven into the ground, on which rude and primitive support a bed was made.

It is no wonder that in the rigorous Indiana climate, in such a comfortless home, Abraham's mother was stricken with an illness which proved fatal. Abraham was then scarcely nine years old, but during her illness he cared for her as tenderly as a girl, and often sat by her side reading the Bible to her for hours. The lasting influence of his mother's life is shown by Lincoln's remark in later life. He said, "All I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Just before she died she called her boy to her bedside and said, "My boy, be a man among men."



"He was distinctively the one man in our nation fitted by education, by experience, by nature and by a Supreme Being to care for the destinies of the republic, when its fate seemed trembling in the balance"

This advice seemed to be a guiding star to his life.

Abraham Lincoln felt that some religious ceremony should be held over her remains, and at once wrote to Parson Elkins, a Methodist preacher and an old friend of the family, in Kentucky, asking him to preach a funeral sermon over her grave. In due time an answer came and a date was fixed. Through the pathless forests of Kentucky and Indiana this preacher guided his horse to Lincoln's cabin, where sympathizing neighbors for twenty miles around had assembled to listen to this, probably the first sermon preached in that section.

It requires but little imagination to picture this scene. The newly made grave in the midst of the unbroken forest, the sturdy, rough, but kindly-disposed settlers assembled to listen to the discourse. By the side of his father sat Abraham Lincoln—the ten-year-old boy, hatless, coatless and shoeless—drinking in every word as it fell from Parson Elkins'

lips. In after life, even during the stormy days of the Rebellion, Abraham Lincoln said that the prayer offered at this time, in which he, the motherless boy, was commended to the care and guardianship of the Supreme, All-powerful and Ever-present Being, influenced his life for good, and created within him a hopefulness which prompted both friends and enemies to stamp him as a "fatalist."

His mother's legacy and best gift was the old family Bible, which he read, re-read and thoroughly mastered, thus laying the foundation for a moral character which blossomed out in every speech he uttered, in every letter he wrote, and in almost every conversation. The spirit of the Bible was built into his boyhood, expanded in his manhood, ripened in his middle age, sustained him when sorrows seared his soul and gave him a grip upon God, man, freedom, immortality. This Book not only influenced his life, but molded his mind, made great his manhood

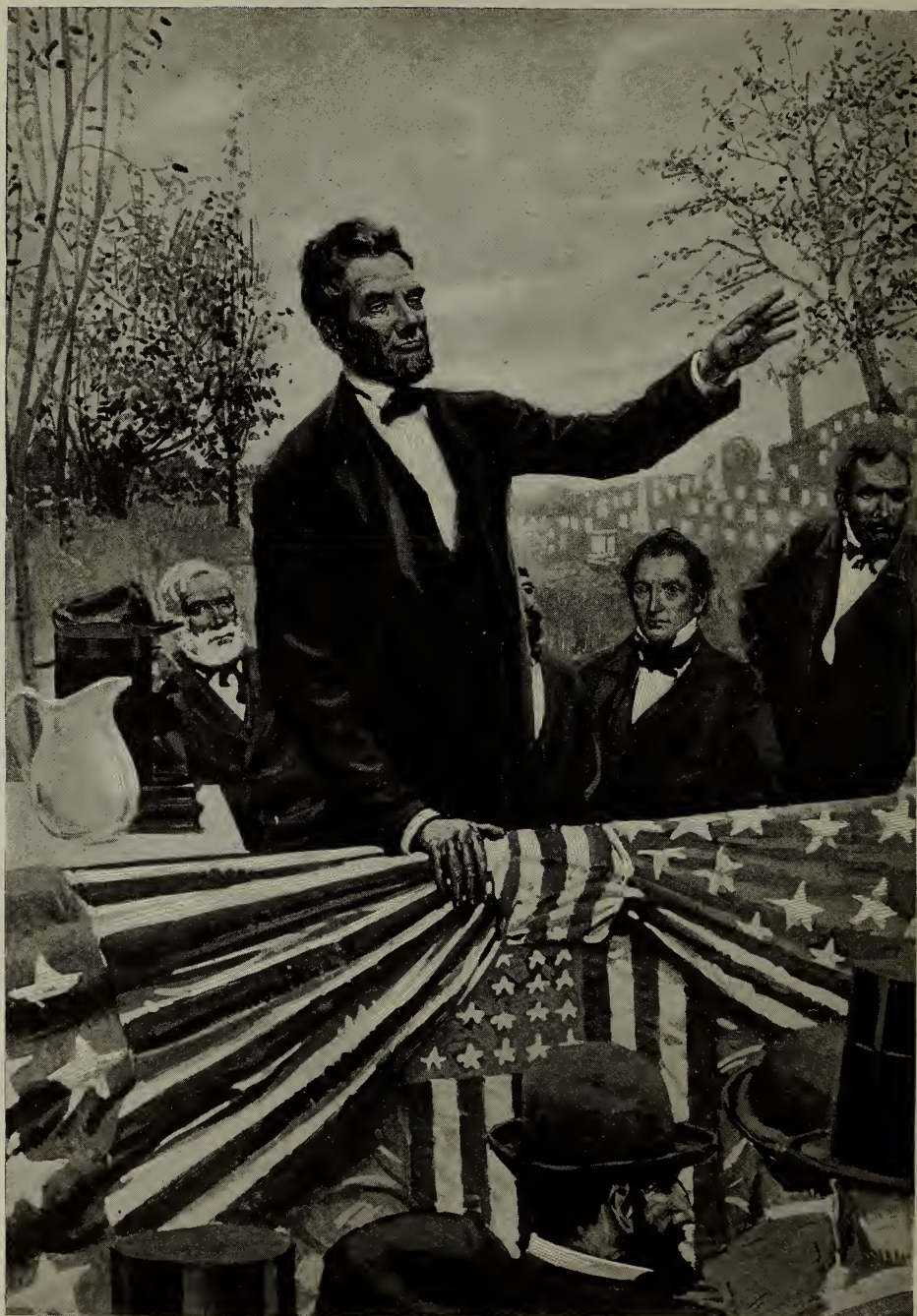
and gave to America this matchless man. While the precepts of the Bible were the foundation for his character, it was so fashioned and polished by a mother's teachings, so nourished by her prayers and so strengthened by her memory that it will live through eternity. *While we revere the memory of Abraham Lincoln, let us not forget his mother's teachings laid the foundation for his greatness.*

In 1830, when Abraham Lincoln was twenty-one years old, his father moved from Indiana to Illinois. About this time Lincoln got his first glimpse of the outside world. He had been postmaster, conducted a store, took a flat boat down the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans, split rails and by his dealings with his fellowmen had ac-

quired the title "Hon-est Abe." It is said at this time he split over four hundred rails for every yard of cloth necessary to make him a pair of pantaloons; that his long legs extended through the pantaloons seventeen inches, and that when his boat got stuck in the mud, he waded

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around in the water with his pants rolled up five feet—two of these were his natural feet under the water. He was a man of tremendous strength, and could take a barrel of whiskey by the chimes, place his mouth at the bung hole and raise it to a level with his lips. At the same time he was the life of every company of which he formed a part, could entertain his friends by telling stories, was a handy boy about the house, and in short was the one young man in the neighborhood with whom no one found fault and for whom each had a kindly word. He had no home, but was welcome in every home. He had no money, but many friends. He had no schooling, but acquired a great education. He lived amidst boisterous surroundings yet never committed an act which he might feel ashamed of. He associated with young men who considered intoxication a virtue rather than a vice, yet no spirituous liquor ever passed his lips. He was a member of no church, yet his life



DELIVERING THE IMMORTAL ADDRESS AT GETTYSBURG

"Spoken amid absolute silence, his words elicited not a single note of applause; but they were the reflex of his thoughts, of his great nature, at that time as little appreciated by the masses as the great Emancipator himself"

was an example of moral and Christian ethics to the community. Seeing a slave woman placed upon the block in New Orleans for sale, his righteous indignation was expressed in his statement, "If I ever get a chance to hit that (referring to slavery), I will hit it hard."

His schooling consisted of less than a single year, yet no man of the present day has the opportunity for the self-educating process as had Abraham Lincoln. With the Bible as his first book, followed by Aesop's Fables, he acquired from the reading and mastering of the fables the happy faculty which characterized him in public life—that of being able always to illustrate every occasion and condition with a fitting story.

Later he took up the study of mathematics, geometry and surveying, and was compelled to master these intricate subjects unaided, except by his few technical books. He acquired the habit of arriving at a definite, logical, accurate and final conclusion, which training he could never have secured in institutions of learning.

As Lincoln progressed in this mind-molding and character-forming course, he took up the study of history of this and other countries, and, being without any instructor or teacher, he made his own deductions and arrived at his own conclusions regarding historical events.

During this self-educating process he imbibed a spirit of liberty, independence, justice and love for humanity which ever characterized his conduct in private and public affairs. He was distinctly a self-trained man, and the value of this training showed itself in his speeches, arguments and correspondence. If his future could have been foreseen and the best possible training outlined to fit him for that future work, it could not have been better devised or more logically arranged.

His absolute, unwavering faith in a Supreme Being; his thorough knowledge and practical familiarity with the Bible; his logically trained mind, by means of

which, in the consideration of delicate and intricate problems, he arrived invariably at proper conclusions; his patriotic, far-seeing and almost prophetic faith in the future of the Republic, coupled with his sympathetic nature, his love for justice and humanity, were in themselves sufficient to have made him a most prominent figure in the nation even though there had been no race to release, no national honor to redeem and no country to save.

In 1847 Lincoln took his seat in the Thirtieth Congress at Washington. At the same time Stephen A. Douglass took his seat in the Senate of the United States. One, the tallest man in Congress, the other, the shortest man in the Senate—thrown

simultaneously into the broad arena of national politics, these two men were destined in the next few years to hold spellbound the entire nation.

The 14th of March, 1849, brought to a close Lincoln's congressional career. During the two years that he had been in Congress he had made no great impression upon the House

nor upon the country, and his highest honors were yet to be won in another field. His return to Springfield found his law practice practically dissipated, and he was compelled to begin life anew.

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THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY

Let us for a moment look back and note the leading facts regarding the history of slavery in this country. The Dutch slaver which landed the first cargo of slaves in 1619, on the banks of the James River, carried with her the inception of secession; while the Mayflower, which arrived about the same time, brought the germs of freedom, which actuated Lincoln and the Republican party during the trying times of 1860. The first great landmark in the history of slavery was the ordinance of 1787, which was intended to check the spread of slavery and establish the form of territorial government, and by a vote of three northern and five southern states,

all in the affirmative, ordained the immediate and perpetual prohibition of slavery in the territories. Strange as it may seem, the balance of power was almost equally divided between the South and the North. Indeed, after the adoption of the Constitution, the admission of states was as follows:—Vermont, a free state, followed by Kentucky, a slave state; Tennessee, a slave state, followed almost immediately by Ohio, a free state; Louisiana, a slave state, followed by Indiana, a free state; then Mississippi, a slave state and Illinois, a free state. At this time there were eleven northern and ten southern states. Alabama was ready for admission as a slave state. The question then came up regarding Missouri and Arkansas, both slave states. The North hesitated to grant the balance of power to the South, from which discussion came the Missouri Compromise, of 1820, namely, that all territory south of 36° 30' should be slave, and all territory north should be free, except the state of Missouri. It was then supposed that slavery was absolutely and positively confined within certain boundaries; that the South should be its confines, while the North should be free.

The admission of Maine, a free state, was followed by Missouri, a slave state—thus keeping the balance of power even. Arkansas, a slave state, was admitted, and immediately after, Michigan, a free state. These tactics were again repeated in 1845, when Iowa, a free state, and Florida, a slave state, were admitted. The admission of Florida exhausted all of the slave territory in the South, while the North had the great undeveloped and practically unknown Northeast, all dedicated to freedom.

In the meantime, the spirit of invention, which is the spirit of progress, was striking death blows to slavery. McCormack had invented his great reaper; Elias Howe, his sewing machine; steam had changed rivers, which hitherto had borne only the savage in his birch bark canoe on missions of destruction, into highways of commerce, bearing on their bosom vessels laden with the production of lands whose riches knew no parallel in the history of the world; railroads were belting the country with bands of steel. These were industries and

inventions to be handled by the fingers and controlled by the minds of free men, and not by slaves. With their slave territory exhausted, the South was practically standing still, while the North was advancing.

In order to increase the slave producing territory, a bill, which will always stand as a disgrace upon the statute books of the nation, was enacted at this time. It authorized the acquisition, annexation and admission of Texas as a state, but really was a bill extending the domain and increasing the propagation of slaves. Not only did this bill increase the slave producing territory, but it was intended to increase the power of the slave holders of the South in the United States Congress and Senate. For to it was attached a condition that out of this immense territory should be carved additional states, not exceeding four in number, in addition to the state of Texas; that the Missouri Compromise was to govern the conditions of slavery, and that these new divisions be eligible to admission as states of the Federal Union. Thus, this bill not only increased the domain of slavery, but increased fivefold (for it meant five instead of one state) the power of the South in the Senate.

In 1846 and 1847 occurred the potato famine in Ireland, and from that country hundreds came to America in search of bread. Monarchical oppression at the same time drove thousands from Europe in search of freedom. These thousands of immigrants did not drift to the fair sun-land of the South, but settled in the North and West, for the reason that their capital was their labor, which could not be sold in competition with the free labor of the slave.

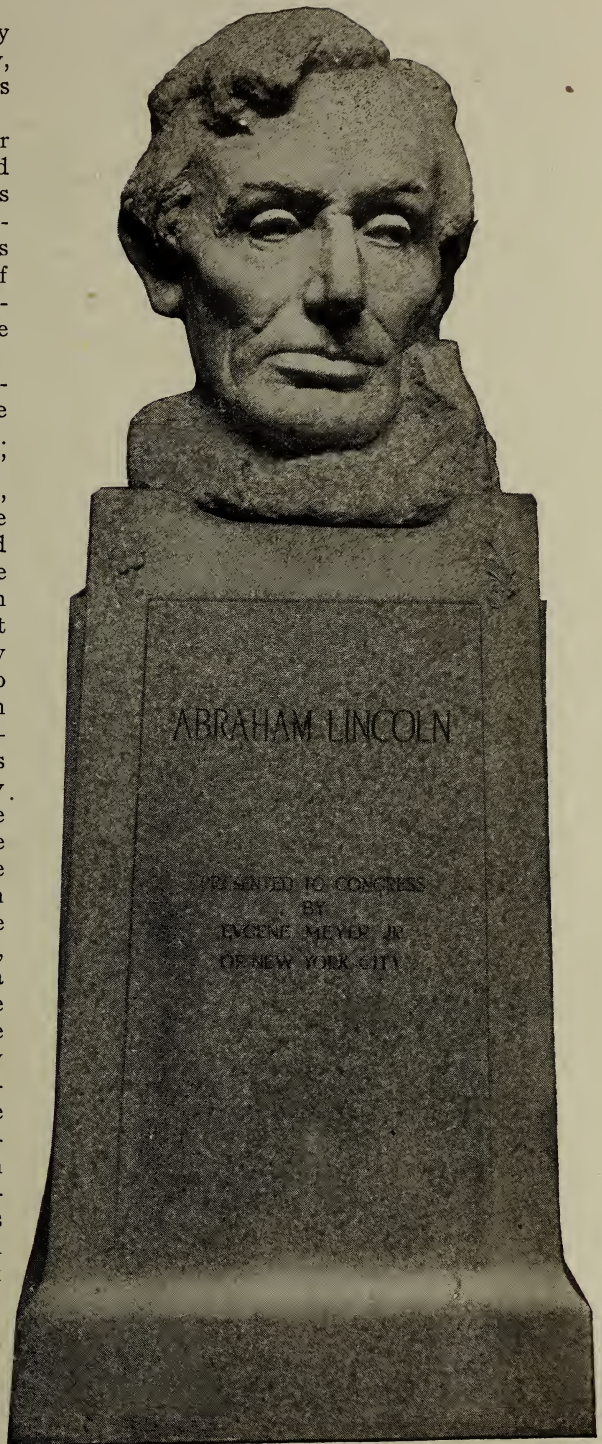
Strange as it may seem, in 1848 gold was discovered in California, and to that golden shore thousands sped over plain and desert and mountain, so that by the end of the year 1849 California had a population of ninety thousand people, formed a state constitution excluding slavery and asked for admission to the Union. This was a great surprise to the South, and together with the contention over the Wilmot Proviso, the boundary of Texas, the war with Mexico, the runaway

slaves, the great question of slavery once more threatened the stability, the integrity and the honor of this nation.

John C. Calhoun, the defender of the doctrine of State Rights and Slavery, and feeble in health, was carried into the United States Senate on a stretcher and from his couch listened to his words of venom, read by another, denouncing the North and advocating State Rights and Slavery.

Henry Clay's Compromise Measures were defeated, but in the meantime John C. Calhoun died. Zachary Taylor, "rough and ready," the old soldier of the Mexican War, also died. Henry Clay took the place of John C. Calhoun and Millard Fillmore, as President, the place of Zachary Taylor. Broken in health and discouraged by defeat of his Compromise Measures, Henry Clay left for the seashore, hoping to regain sufficient strength to again bring these Measures before Congress, at the next session. His Measures were championed by Millard Fillmore, and one by one they were passed; and thus the Civil War, which threatened the nation in 1850 was put off for ten years. This Compromise Measure of Henry Clay gave the North, California as a free state, and a law prohibiting slave trade in the District of Columbia; gave the South the condition that New Mexico and Utah should be organized as territories with no reference to slavery, a more stringent fugitive slave law and an appropriation of ten million dollars for the adjustment of the Texas boundary. This Compromise was accepted by both political parties as a finality plank in their platform, and the great slavery question was once more regarded as forever settled.

Both conventions of 1852 solemnly resolved that they would discountenance and resist any further renewal of the slavery agitation. This determination



THE BORGLUM BUST OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Which stands in the Rotunda of the Capitol

was echoed and re-echoed, affirmed and reaffirmed by the recognized organs of the public voice, from the village newspaper to the presidential message, from the country debating school to the measured utterances of senatorial discussion. Grave doubts, however, found occasional expression of distrust,—none, perhaps, more forcibly than in the following newspaper epigram, describing the word "Finality":

"To kill twice dead a rattle-snake,
And off his scaly skin to take,
And through his head to drive a stake,
And every bone within him break,
And of his flesh mince-meat to make;
To burn, to sear, to boil and bake,
And over it the bosom shake,
And sink it fathoms in the lake;
Whence, after all, quite wide awake,
Comes back that very same old snake."

And so with the serpent Slavery. For two hundred and fifty years its friends and enemies had tried to kill it. Political parties had voted it into oblivion, and yet time and time again it reared its cursed head, flashed its fiery eye, spit forth its venomous virus and threatened the destruction of the entire nation.

Indeed, there probably was no man of that time more decided and determined never to say another word on the question of slavery than Stephen A. Douglass. However, when he became chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories, a bill was finally drafted for the organization of Kansas and Nebraska, with the right to choose for themselves their form of government, thus disregarding and repealing the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

This was quickly followed in 1857 by the Dred Scott Decision, which protected the slave owner in the possession of his property, whether in a slave state, an organized territory or a free state. By the Dred Scott Decision, a slave owner could remove a slave into a free state and the law protected him in the possession of his property. The North stood aghast

at the possibilities resulting from this decision, while the South seemed jubilant over the result.

LINCOLN AND STEPHEN A. DOUGLASS

There was probably no period in the history of this country when a leader was more greatly needed than in the beginning of 1858. Douglass again sought re-election as United States Senator from Illinois. The slave power controlled the President, his Cabinet, the Senate, Congress and the Supreme Court. Slavery presented an undivided front, compact, solid, determined, sullen and thus far successful.

The North had her peace parties, her anti-slavery organizations, her abolitionists, but no great leader whom the masses could follow.

At this time, when the fate of our free institutions trembled in the balance, when the dark clouds of disaster and disappoint-

ment hovered over us as a nation; when the clanking of the manacles and chains of the slaves resounded through the North, and to his weeping and crying for help came no succor; when God himself seemed to have turned a deaf ear to his supplication, then, as the savior of the nation, as the liberator of its slaves, came that great, immortal character—

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He was six feet four inches in height, lean, lank, thin, almost emaciated in appearance; his extremely long legs, long fingers, long face, hollow breast and stooped figure made him directly the opposite of his opponent, Douglass.

Douglass was known to the entire nation. He was the leading man of the Democratic party, and had crossed swords on the floor of the Senate with Webster, Chase, Fessenden and Trumbull; small of stature, his massive head, his strong square features, his eager eyes, flashing fire beneath his broad forehead, proclaimed him an orator to the manor born.

Lincoln challenged Douglass to a series of debates from the same platform. Douglass accepted, naming seven joint debates. Douglass traveled from place to place in a special car decorated with flags, attached to which was a platform car on which was a twelve-pound Howitzer which announced his entry into the different cities he visited. Lincoln traveled in an ordinary passenger coach and indeed sometimes in the caboose attached to freight trains. Douglass was hailed as "The little giant." Lincoln's friends loved to style him as "The giant killer." Many farmers traveled the entire night and some of the previous day in order to be on the ground at the opening of the debates. They came in vehicles of all kinds and descriptions, the favorite one being what was known in the country as "hay ladders," filled with straw, attached to which were one or two buggies, trailing behind, which usually accommodated the women and children of the party. The farm boy rode the farm horse, even two or three on the same horse; some came afoot; in fact, no such interest or enthusiasm had ever before stirred any section of the country. The entire country was aflame with the interest which these debates excited, and at some of them as many as twelve thousand persons were gathered in a single day.

In a speech of three hours and ten minutes, Lincoln answered Douglass' first defense of his Kansas-Nebraska proposition. As Lincoln rose to speak, his tall, angular, awkward, lean, lank form was emphasized by his apparent embarrassment at the start. His high-pitched, falsetto voice could be heard in spite of the bustle and noise of the crowd. His Kentucky accent added to the interest of the scene, and those who remember him at that time declare that his countenance resembled the inspiration pictured by St. Gauden upon his statue, which now stands in Lincoln Park, Chicago. Progressing with his theme, his voice became more clear, his words came faster, his gestures were the movements of his body and head rather than his arms—they were the natural expression of the man. His long, straight hair seemed bristling with electricity, his whole frame quivered with

emotion, and, at the height of his eloquence, pleading for the sacredness of the Constitution and the honor of the nation, he indeed resembled the pen pictures handed down to us of the Hebrew prophets of old.

This series of debates, covering about four months, so pictured to the American people the enormity and injustice of slavery that Lincoln soon gathered about him, as staunch supporters, thousands who were apathetic only a few months before. His closing sentence in his final address is significant. Speaking of the extension or extinction of slavery, he said:

"That is the real issue. That is the issue which will continue in this country when these poor tongues of Judge Douglass and myself shall be silent. It is the eternal struggle between these two principles, right and wrong, throughout the world. They are the two principles which have stood face to face from the beginning of time, and will ever continue to struggle. One is the common right of humanity, and the other is the divine right of kings."

In these debates, the two ablest men in the nation were the champions; the Constitution, the platform on which they stood; the American people, the audience they addressed; the great prairies, the amphitheatre in which they spoke; and on the solution of the problem involved, depended the honor of a nation and the freedom of a race.

During this year Lincoln made his great contest with Douglass for the United States Senatorship from Illinois.

In the election which followed, Douglass was elected for the United States Senate; but Lincoln was looking for still bigger game, and that game was the Presidency. He secured it two years later.

Referring to his defeat, Lincoln said he felt much like the big boy who stumped his toe. It hurt too much for him to laugh, and he was too big to cry. Indeed, he had so effectively forced the issue during these debates and so held up to the public gaze Douglass, his opponent, that while he secured the nomination for the Presidency from the Northern Democrats, the election gave him but twelve electoral votes.

During the latter part of the year 1859 and the beginning of 1860, Lincoln delivered speeches in different sections of

the country, always effectively answering statements previously made by Douglass either from the rostrum or in the public press. On invitation of Henry Ward Beecher, Lincoln visited New York City on February 27, 1860. In an ill-fitting suit of black, not improved by several hours in the cramped quarters of his carpet-bag, he appeared in Cooper Union before a tremendous audience. His nervousness

Republic, and proved conclusively that at no period were they favorable to the extension of slavery. This speech, masterful in its array of facts, delivered by one upon whom the masses looked as an untutored, ignorant product of the western frontier, was heard with intense interest by the brightest, brainiest, the most learned and the most cultured men of New York City. Weeks and months of the most careful



VISITING THE SICK DURING THE WAR

"His sympathetic nature, his love for justice and humanity, his patriotic, farseeing and almost prophetic faith were in themselves sufficient to have made him a prominent figure in the nation"

was apparent when he began by placing his thumbs under his suspenders, raising them to a level with his ears and then letting them go, apparently unconscious of the act, or the amusing effect upon his audience; but as he warmed up to his subject, the audience lost sight of the ill-fitting suit, his gaunt appearance and his peculiar manner.

In this speech, he most carefully reviewed the attitude of the founders of the

searching and exhaustive study must have been given to its preparation. His arguments, backed by facts, were unanswerable, his logic unassailable and his conclusions inevitable.

The next day his entire speech appeared in four New York newspapers, and Will Cullen Bryant, then editor of the *New York Post*, stated that the pages of that journal were "indefinitely elastic for the publication of such words of weight and wisdom

as those uttered by Mr. Lincoln the previous night."

From New York he went to New Haven and Hartford and other points in New England, everywhere listened to by the brightest minds of the day. In April, the Democratic Convention convened in Charleston, and without naming a candidate for President, adjourned, to meet in Baltimore. The National Constitutional Union Convention met in Baltimore and nominated John Bell for the Presidency; the Northern Democrats nominated Stephen A. Douglass; the Southern Democrats, John C. Breckinridge.

The Republican Convention met in Chicago and nominated Lincoln on the third ballot. His notification and election are matters of history. February 11, 1861, he left his home in Springfield for Washington, and before leaving, bade his friends and neighbors good-bye in these words:

"My friends, no one not in my position can appreciate the sadness I feel at this parting. A duty devolves upon me which is greater, perhaps, than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He never would have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine aid which sustained him, and on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support; and I hope you, my friends, will pray that I may receive that Divine assistance without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain. Again, I bid you all an affectionate farewell."

LINCOLN SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT

March 4th, 1861, Lincoln took the oath as President. His speech on that occasion is a matter of history, conciliatory in point, almost pathetic in its appeal to the South, but with a determination to protect the government and the government's interest. He closed with these now historic words:

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds

of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The day before Lincoln uttered these words, Alexander II, autocrat of all the Russians, by imperial decree, emancipated his serfs; while the United States, supposedly far in advance of Russia in civilization and humanity, was divided on this question of slavery; and the South, headed by Jefferson Davis, was planning for the greatest war of modern times, not only to perpetuate, but to extend this nefarious traffic in human beings.

Now begins the great work of Lincoln's life.

Reared in a log cabin, and now occupying the most responsible place in the nation in the most perilous period of that nation's existence.

Thus far, through fifty-two years of Lincoln's life, we find him always prepared to take advantage of opportunities as they presented themselves. He won in his contention with Douglass on the question of slavery. The nation, recognizing the justice of his position, and his ability, selected him as the one man to guide the Ship of State during the next four years. The question of states' rights had troubled John Adams in 1798, when Virginia and Kentucky passed their Nullification Acts. Thomas Jefferson had to face it when a Northern Confederacy was about to be formed in 1804, and later, when Aaron Burr threatened a Southwestern Confederacy with its capital at New Orleans. James Madison had to contend with it when New England refused to furnish money or men or take any part in the War of 1812. Andrew Jackson, by force, suppressed this State Right movement in South Carolina in 1832. Several states, both north and south, had attempted to enforce their doctrine of State Rights by holding the club of secession over the head of the nation, but not until 1861 was the

Before his Cabinet he stood, in the lime-light of civilization, placed a milestone on the pathway of progress, a beacon on the hilltop of liberty, a guidepost for future generations and thus showed the greatness and the majesty of his manhood, the depth and tenderness of his humanity, and his confidence and faith in Almighty God.



MR. RILEY R. ROSS

actual blow struck. Lincoln had met successfully the incident—Slavery. He was now face to face with the result—Secession. Slavery was the cause. Secession was the effect. With Lincoln, slavery was secondary; but to admit secession meant the destruction of the Union. With Lincoln, the Union was sacred and must be preserved. Therefore, he used the entire force of the army and navy, not

to destroy slavery, but to preserve the Union. As a war measure, he destroyed slavery by his Emancipation Proclamation; but to bury forever the principle of secession, required the sacrifice of a million human lives, an expenditure of a billion dollars and a country torn by civil strife. The fall of the Confederacy was secession's death knell, but it cemented together the disjointed sections of our

country, restored to us one flag, made us one country, one people, one nation, the Union, and made actually true those prophetic words of Daniel Webster, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

As Secretary of State, Lincoln selected William H. Seward.

As Secretary of the Treasury, he chose Salmon P. Chase, the man who gave Lincoln more trouble, probably, than any other one man in the Cabinet; but, finally accepting his resignation, Lincoln appointed him Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, December 6, 1864, succeeding Chief Justice Taney, who wrote the "Dred Scot Decision."

As Secretary of War, he selected Simon Cameron, who continued for less than a single year; then Edwin M. Stanton. Stanton was a staunch Democrat, attorney general in the Cabinet of James Buchanan. In a law suit before the Supreme Court in Cincinnati, he was associated with Abraham Lincoln, and so rudely elbowed Lincoln out of the case that Lincoln's comment was, "I have never been so brutally treated before." Notwithstanding this fact, he recognized Stanton's ability, honesty and loyalty and selected him for this most important position. To many, who claimed that Stanton was too impulsive, Lincoln said, "We will try him and let him jump around for a while, and if we can't control him, will treat him as they did a Methodist preacher whom I knew in the West. This man became so enthusiastic and excited in his testimony exhortation and prayer that the official board had to fill his pockets with stones to keep him from jumping over the pulpit. This we can do with Stanton."

He was probably the most difficult man in the Cabinet for Lincoln to handle.

At one time, a committee of western men, headed by Congressman Owen Lovejoy of Illinois, called upon the President and urged the mingling of the eastern and western troops. This plan interested Lincoln, who wrote a letter recommending this plan to the Secretary of War, Stanton. As this scheme seemed impracticable to Mr. Stanton, he refused to carry it out. "But we have the President's order, sir," said Mr. Lovejoy. "Did Lincoln give

you an order of that kind?" said the Secretary. "He did, sir." "Then he is an old fool," was the response. "Do you mean to say that the President is an old fool?" asked the Congressman, in amazement. "Yes, sir, if he gave you such an order as that." Returning to the executive mansion, he reported the result of the conversation. "Did Stanton say that?" asked President Lincoln. "He did, sir, and repeated it." "Well, Stanton is nearly always right, and if he said I am an old fool then I must be one."

One of the sorest trials in Stanton's life was when Lincoln's great human nature prompted him to interfere with the death sentence. Many instances of this kind are recorded, to only one of which we will refer. It was at a time when an old man came trembling before him and asked for a pardon for his son, who had been sentenced to be shot for desertion. Lincoln asked the old man to tell his story. It was this:

"We had three boys; one was killed in battle, one still serves in the army under Sherman and the third (the youngest) has been tried for desertion and sentenced to be shot. I am here at his mother's request; the carrying out of this sentence will kill her, as he is her favorite boy. The boy never deserted, he could not desert; it is not in his blood."

Without another word, Lincoln wrote a telegram to General Butler, ordering the sentence cancelled and the boy set free. As the boy was sentenced to be shot two days later, the father hesitated to return home, lest Lincoln might change his mind the next day, and so expressed himself to the President, to which Lincoln replied, putting his broad hand on his shoulder, "Friend, if he lives to get my first telegram he will live to be older than Methuselah before he gets a second telegram countermanding the order."

Lincoln told the story of how a great, homely giant of a man once put a pistol to his face and threatened to shoot. Lincoln coolly asked why he thus threatened his life. He replied that he had promised his wife and God that if he ever met a man more homely than himself he would shoot him on sight, to which statement Lincoln replied, "If I am

more homely than you I should die. Go ahead and shoot."

That the emancipation of the slaves was secondary and the saving of the Union his first object is shown by a letter written about this time to Horace Greeley. In it he said:

"If there be those who would not save the Union unless at the same time save slavery, I don't agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless at the

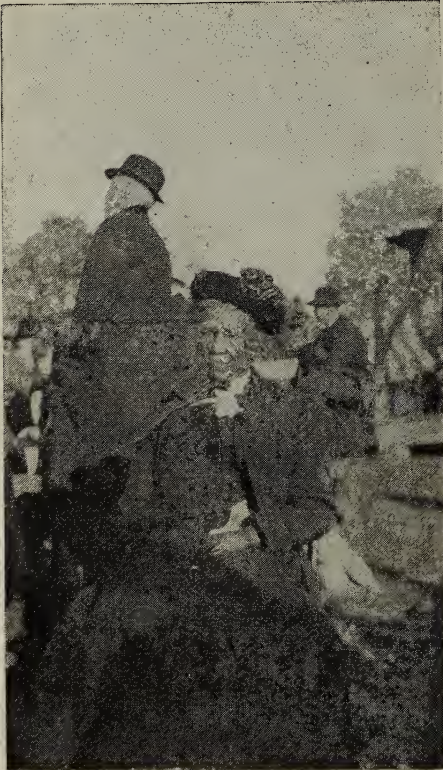
cause. I will do more whenever I feel doing more will help the cause."

Even before this letter was penned Lincoln had in his possession the original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. It had been written in June, submitted to the Cabinet for criticism and discussion in July, but he did not feel that the time was yet ripe to issue it.

Probably in no one thing did Lincoln show himself the master of himself and the master of men more truly than in his handling of the Emancipation Proclamation. To his closest friends, he said he must wait for a victory before issuing the Proclamation.

The Battle of Antietam was fought and won, but only vague reports drifted in to the President; nothing on which he could absolutely rely. It was his custom to spend his nights at the Soldiers' Home, a few miles out of Washington; but this night he spent with his boy Tad, not six years old, at the White House. As night closed upon him and his last visitor had left, he placed the sleepy, tired boy to rest for the night and alone paced the floor, his vigil broken only by his occasional look at the sleeping boy, unconscious of the great burden the father was bearing. Ten, eleven and twelve o'clock passed. About one o'clock in the morning a messenger arrived from McClellan's army, with the definite news that Lee had been driven across the Potomac, out of Maryland and into Virginia.

He immediately decided to call a meeting of the Cabinet, and at high noon on the 22nd day of September, 1862, a Cabinet meeting was held, the significance of which cannot be expressed in words. When Lincoln entered, he carried in his hand a recently published volume by Artemus Ward and read from it until the entire Cabinet, with the exception of Stanton, was convulsed with laughter. Unable longer to withstand the levity of the situation, Stanton said, "Gentlemen, I feel that the condition of the country demands our most serious attention." Whereupon Lincoln laid aside his volume. His face assumed a rigid, deathlike paleness, characteristic when some momentous question was to be considered, and in his homely, frank and honest manner said, "Stanton,



"AUNT BETTY" THOMAS

The old colored woman who lived within a stone's throw of the spot from which Lincoln viewed the battle of Port Stevens

same time they could destroy slavery, I don't agree with them. My paramount object is to save the Union. If I could save the Union by freeing all the slaves I would do it. If I could save the Union by not freeing any of the slaves I would do that. If I could free some and leave others alone and thus save the Union, I would do that. What I do regarding slavery, I do it because I believe it will help save the Union, and what I forbear, I forbear because I think it would not help save the Union. I will do less whenever I feel what I am doing hurts the

you are right, but I had to read something of this nature, else the burden would have been too great to bear, and I would have yielded to a broken heart."

He then drew from his pocket the original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. He said, "Gentlemen, I have not brought you together for discussion or advice. I promised myself and God that if Lee were driven across the Potomac I would crown the act with the liberation of the slaves, and am now ready to fulfill my promise. The act is mine and I stand responsible for the result."

Thus, before his Cabinet he stood, in the lime-light of civilization, placed a milestone on the pathway of progress, a beacon

their oppressive ruler, King John; second, the Declaration of Independence, which summarized the divine right, dignity and freedom of man; third, this equally great document, the Emancipation Proclamation, which made four million bondmen free and rendered immortal the name "Abraham Lincoln."

Harper's Ferry was burned. Then followed the Baltimore riot and the destruction of the great navy yards at Norfolk. The railroad bridges and indeed the railroads themselves, leading into Baltimore, were destroyed. Virginia, which Lincoln hoped to retain in the Union, seceded. Maryland served notice on Lincoln that troops should not pass through Baltimore



FROM THIS SPOT PRESIDENT LINCOLN VIEWED THE BATTLE OF FORT STEVENS

on the hill-top of liberty, a guidepost for future generations and thus showed the greatness and the majesty of his manhood, the depth and tenderness of his humanity and his confidence and faith in Almighty God.

This preliminary proclamation was signed and published in the newspapers that evening. It was received with profound interest by the whole country, rejoicing by the North and gnashing of teeth by the slave holders of the South.

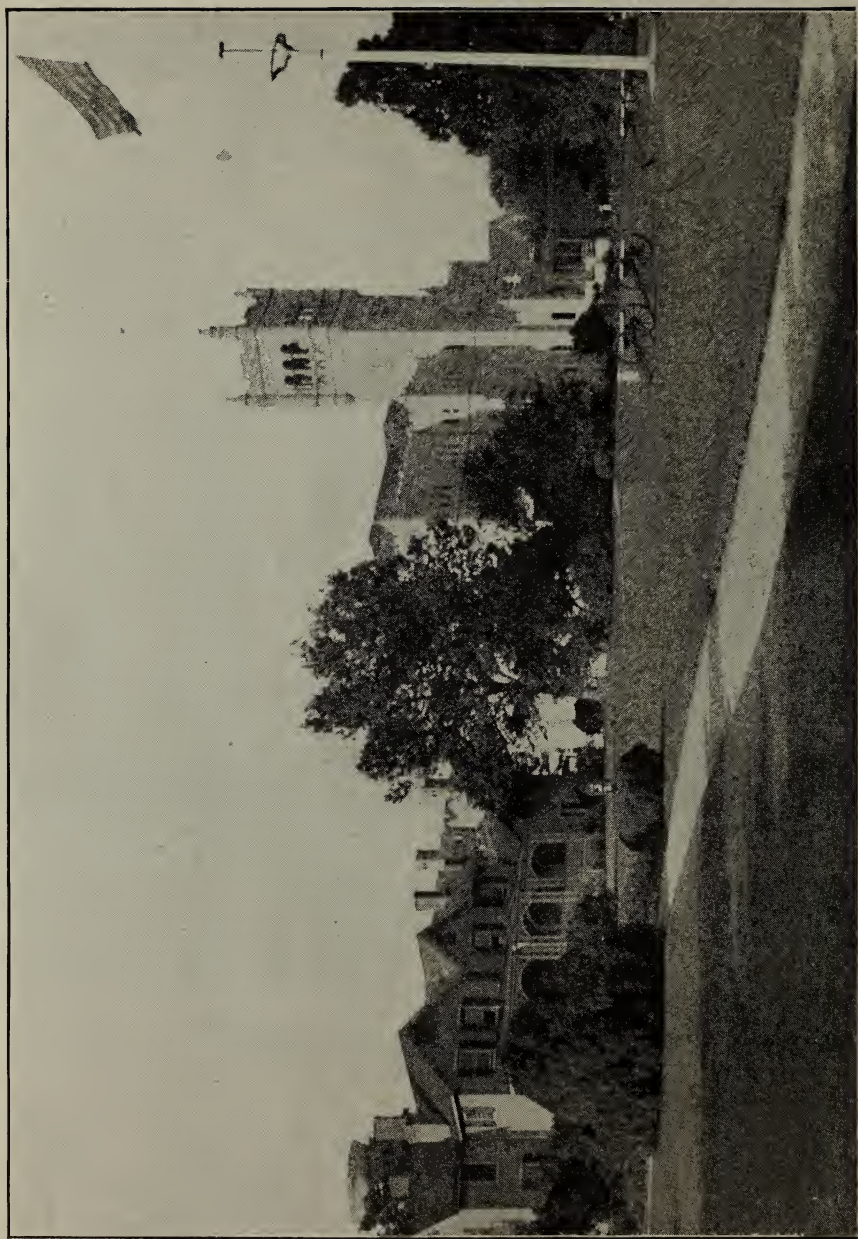
THE FINAL PROCLAMATION

The final proclamation was issued January 1, 1863. Thus was added one more to the great Immortal Documents of History: First, the Magna Charta, snatched by the Barons of England from

or Maryland to defend the National Capital. Lee, educated at West Point, hesitating, undecided, finally went with his state, and cast his lot with the Confederacy.

These discouragements were followed by such disasters as the Battles of Big Bethel, Bull Run, Wilson's Creek and McClellan's seven days of defeat in changing his base to the James River. It was defeat, defeat, defeat; disaster after disaster; enemies at home reviled him; friends began to doubt him; the nation listened almost hopelessly, wondering if victory ever could be secured. God, only, sustained Lincoln in these trying hours.

No wonder that in rapid succession Halleck succeeded McClellan, then Burnside, Hooker, and finally Meade, who



PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S SUMMER COTTAGE

From here he went to view the attack on Fort Stevens, in General Early's attack upon Washington

turned the tide of battle and brought victory out of defeat at Gettysburg, which became the turning point of the war. At the same time, Grant captured Vicksburg, and from this time on God's messenger, electricity, brought tidings of victory instead of defeat. Hooker fought his battle above the clouds on Lookout Mountain; Sherman cut his way to the sea and Lincoln found Grant, who, as he said, "would fight," and placed him in command of the armies of the nation.

With a critic's eye he had watched Grant from the time of his first victory at Paducah, in September, 1861, as he captured Fort Henry and Fort Donaldson, won Shiloh and Iuka, celebrated the nation's birthday by allowing the waters of the Mississippi to flow untroubled to the sea, by his great victory at Vicksburg, won for himself unfading laurels at Chattanooga, and yet during all of this time Lincoln had never personally met Grant. Grant's enemies had time and again tried to poison Lincoln's mind by telling him false stories of Grant's drunkenness. Although an absolute teetotaler, Lincoln's great, broad, comprehensive, liberal mind swept the situation at a glance, and, at the risk of being misunderstood, said, "I wish I knew the brand of whiskey Grant uses and I would send a barrel of it to each of the other generals." When at a public reception at Washington, Grant appeared with hundreds of others to pay his respects to the President, he was quickly recognized, and as Lincoln took him by the hand the two great characters of the War met. One, the embodiment of patience, for Lincoln had waited three years to find his ideal; and the other, the embodiment of determination and success, for Grant had worked three years to merit this opportunity. Fortunate indeed was the country that, at this first interview between Grant and Lincoln, each should have been so favorably impressed with the other. In their hands was the destiny

of the country. They were co-operating for the preservation of the Union and the liberty of man. Probably no meeting in the history of the nation was so momentous and so memorable as this, which marked the beginning of the end of the Civil War.

The next day Grant was made commander-in-chief and began systematically, persistently, and with a bull-dog's tenacity, to lay his plans for the capture of Richmond and the surrender of Lee.

THE GETTYSBURG SPEECH

The great, immortal Battle of Gettysburg, upon the issue of which hung the fate of the nation, was fought July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863, with a loss on the Union side of three thousand killed and fourteen thousand wounded. The state of Pennsylvania set apart a portion of this battlefield as a national cemetery. In November following, Senator Edward Everett was selected as the speaker at the dedication. Accompanying him was Abraham Lincoln, and as he was expected to say a few words, on his way there, in the midst

One of the most prominent traits of Lincoln's character was his absolute honesty. He was honest in the broadest, deepest and fullest sense of the word. The honesty he displayed when, as a boy, he walked six miles to return six cents overpayment was the characteristic honesty of the man throughout life. His honesty saved the nation, retained the flag, and made the world and humanity ever debtor to his foresight and patriotism.

of conversation, he scribbled down on a piece of paper a few words, which, spoken on that memorable occasion, form one of the brightest gems in the field of literature.

Spoken amid absolute silence, these words elicited not a single note of applause; but they were the reflex of his thoughts, of his great nature, at that time as little appreciated by the masses as the great Emancipator himself. While the studied oration of Senator Everett, delivered amid the applause of the people, has been forgotten, this gem in the field of American literature still lives, and ever will live.

By act of Congress, this entire Gettysburg speech has been cast in bronze and erected in every national cemetery and military park in the United States. It has also been placed at the entrance of our great colleges, universities, clubs and libraries. Not only in bronze has it been

immortalized, but today it is engraved upon the tablet of the memory of every school boy and is a part of every collection of choice literature. Never before, so far as history records, has such an honor been given to the words or writings of any one man.

One of the most prominent traits of Lincoln's character was his absolute honesty. He was honest in the broadest, deepest and fullest sense of the word. The honesty he displayed when, as a boy, he walked six miles to return six cents overpayment was the characteristic honesty of the man throughout life. His absolute fairness and honesty won for him the respect of the slave owners of the South, retained in the Union the border states, and secured the enlistment of thousands of men from those states for the Union army. His honesty and statements prevented war with England over the Trent affair, and made him the father of American diplomacy of today. His honesty and judgment made Grant commander-in-chief. His honesty in keeping his promise to Almighty God freed the slaves, and gave us the Emancipation Proclamation. His honesty saved the nation, retained the flag, and made the world and humanity ever debtor to his foresight and patriotism.

He was distinctively the one man in our nation fitted by education, by experience, by nature, and by a Supreme Being to care for the destinies of the republic, when its fate seemed trembling in the balance. It certainly was the eternal conflict between right and wrong; but with Lincoln as the leader for right, and God as the arbiter of the conflict, right won and the nation was saved.

In the midst of rejoicing over the War's ending and the successful achievement of his plans, while at the pinnacle of his fame, at the zenith of his glory, at the height of his power, he was struck down by the assassin's blow; a blow fatal to himself, fatal to the reconstruction of the South, fatal to the best friend the South ever had.

Some of you can remember that pall of blackness which spread over the country on that fatal Saturday morning in April, when his death was announced; but the blow which deprived the nation of its

leader showed that his friends were numbered by the million. Even his enemies in the South deplored the act; the nation stood weeping with the passion of an angry grief. Foreign representatives strove with each other to do him honor. Soldiers who had unflinchingly met death on a hundred fields of battle; civilians never known to weep over their own personal troubles or private cares; mothers who, with aching heart but tearless eyes, gave their boys that the country might live; the strong, the weak, the old, the young, the rich, the poor, all alike broke down and cried like children when they heard of the murder of Abraham Lincoln. Children, alarmed, found their parents' eyes red and cheeks wet with weeping as they were kissed awake that Saturday morning, and heard in a choked voice, trembling with suppressed emotion, the words—"Lincoln is dead."

When the attending surgeon made known to the iron-hearted Stanton that the wound was fatal, his great breast heaving with emotion, he exclaimed: "He must not; he cannot die!" His words were prophetic. Today Lincoln lives in the literature of our country, in the storied history of our nation, in the songs of our people and on the enduring canvas, and his name is as imperishable as the marble into which his likeness has been chiseled.

Educated in the great school of experience, all, from the country school on the hillside to the great university in the city, vied each with the other to do him honor. With his love of right, justice and humanity, he made not only this nation, but the world, his debtor. He was greater than the nation he saved, he now belongs to the world; greater than the age in which he lived, he now belongs to eternity. He was a Cromwell in courage, a Demosthenes in eloquence, a Plato in reasoning, a Solon in wisdom and statescraft, a Napoleon in leadership, a Bismarck in firmness, and a Washington in patriotism. At the same time, he was like a mother in tenderness and devotion to duty, a father in kindness, and a child in simplicity.

For the thoughts, the words, the deeds of such a man, there is no death. The sphere of their influence goes on widening forever and forever. They bud, they blossom, they bear fruit from age to age.